



1876-2001

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March 20, 2001

Representative John D. Dingell  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the nationwide membership of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) and our Michigan Chapter, I am pleased to tell you that we strongly support enactment of H.R. 526 the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this bill early in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This legislation is critically needed for all Americans but especially for the millions of people with disabilities. They are particularly vulnerable to abuse, maltreatment and neglect by health insurers. More care options, greater access to patient information and greater protections from interference in the doctor-patient relationship will benefit us all.

Thousands of AAMR members were greatly disappointed that patient rights legislation was not passed in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. As you know, the overwhelming majority of Americans supported it. Hopefully, the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress will listen to the people and enact this much-needed legislation. We will do our part in supporting the effort.

Sincerely,

M. Doreen Croser  
Executive Director